



PATENT
Docket: P-21544.02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Laurent Schaller, et al)	Art Unit: 3731
)	
Serial No.:	10/653,027)	Examiner: Ho, Uyen T.
)	
Filed:	08-28-2003)	
For:	TISSUE CONNECTOR APPARATUS AND METHODS		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with C.F.R. §§ 1.97 *et. seq.*, the materials enclosed herewith are brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly being of interest in connection with the above-identified patent application.

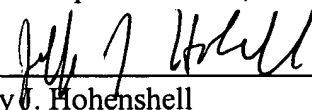
Consideration of each of the documents listed on the attached Form 1449 is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. §609, Applicant further requests that a copy of the Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next Official Communication.

The Examiner is also informed of U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 11/218,824 (believed not yet published) which claims priority to U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 09/260,623, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,613,059 which was cited in the most recent Office Action.

Please charge the fee of \$180.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(p) for the submission of this information disclosure statement to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurent Schaller, et al
By their Representatives,

By: 
Jeffrey G. Hohenshell
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,109
Telephone: (763) 391-9661
Customer No.: 27581

10/05/2005 HLE333 00000022 132546 10653027

04 FC:1806 180.00 DA


**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

Atty. Docket No.: P-21544.02

Serial No.: 10/653,027

Applicant(s): Laurent Schaller et al

Filing Date: 08-28-2003

Group: 3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	43,098	06-1864	Cooper			
	655,190	08-1900	Bramson			
	1,583,271	05-1926	Biro			
	1,625,602	04-1927	Gould et al			
	2,240,330	04-1941	Flagg et al			
	2,256,382	09-1941	Dole			
	2,264,679	12-1941	Ravel			
	2,516,710	07-1950	Mascolo			
	2,715,486	08-1955	Marcoff-Moghadam et al			
	2,890,519	06-1959	Storz, Jr.			
	3,249,104	05-1966	Hohnstein			
	3,274,658	09-1966	Pile			
	3,452,742	07-1969	Muller			
	3,506,012	04-1970	Brown			
	3,509,882	05-1970	Blake			
	3,547,103	12-1970	Cook			
	3,570,497	03-1971	Lemole			
	3,608,095	09-1971	Barry			
	3,638,654	02-1972	Akuba			
	RE27,391	06-1972	Merser			
	3,753,438	08-1973	Wood et al			
	3,875,648	04-1975	Bone			
	3,910,281	10-1975	Kletschka et al			
	3,958,576	05-1976	Komiya			
	4,038,725	08-1977	Keefe			
	4,103,690	08-1978	Harris			
	4,140,125	02-1979	Smith			
	4,170,990	10-1979	Baumgart et al			

EXAMINER**Date Considered**

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		Atty. Docket No.: P-21544.02		Serial No.: 10/653,027			
		Applicant(s): Laurent Schaller et al					
		Filing Date: 08-28-2003		Group: 3731			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date If Appropriate
		4,192,315	03-1980	Hilzinger et al			
		4,217,902	08-1980	March			
		4,324,248	04-1982	Perlin			
		4,345,601	08-1982	Fukuda			
		4,416,266	11-1983	Baucom			
		4,456,017	06-1984	Miles			
		4,485,816	12-1984	Krumme			
		4,522,207	06-1985	Klieman et al			
		4,535,764	08-1985	Ebert			
		4,549,545	10-1985	Levy			
		4,586,502	05-1986	Bedi et al			
		4,586,503	05-1986	Kirsch et al			
		4,595,007	06-1986	Mericle			
		4,612,932	09-1986	Caspar et al			
		4,637,380	01-1987	Orejola			
		4,665,906	05-1987	Jervis			
		4,683,895	08-1987	Pohndorf			
		4,719,924	01-1988	Crittenden et al			
		4,730,615	03-1988	Sutherland et al			
		4,809,695	03-1989	Gwathmey et al			
		4,873,975	10-1989	Walsh et al			
		4,896,668	01-1990	Popoff et al			
		4,899,744	02-1990	Fujitsuka et al			
		4,901,721	02-1990	Hakki			
		4,924,866	05-1990	Yoon			
		4,926,860	05-1990	Stice et al			
		4,929,240	05-1990	Kirsch et al			
		4,932,955	06-1990	Merz et al			
		4,950,283	08-1990	Dzubow et al			
		4,950,285	08-1990	Wilk			
EXAMINER				Date Considered			
<small>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>							

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	Atty. Docket No.: P-21544.02	Serial No.: 10/653,027
	Applicant(s): Laurent Schaller et al	
	Filing Date: 08-28-2003	Group: 3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	4,983,176	01-1991	Cushman et al			
	4,990,152	02-1991	Yoon			
	4,997,439	03-1991	Chen			
	5,002,550	03-1991	Li			
	5,002,562	03-1991	Oberlander			
	5,002,563	03-1991	Pyka et al			
	5,026,379	06-1991	Yoon			
	5,047,047	09-1991	Yoon			
	5,053,047	10-1991	Yoon			
	5,074,874	12-1991	Yoon et al			
	5,100,418	03-1992	Yoon et al			
	5,123,913	06-1992	Wilk et al			
	5,152,769	10-1992	Baber			
	5,154,189	10-1992	Oberlander			
	5,158,566	10-1992	Pianetti			
	5,171,250	12-1992	Yoon			
	5,171,252	12-1992	Friedland			
	5,174,087	12-1992	Bruno			
	5,196,022	03-1993	Bilweis			
	5,219,358	06-1993	Bendel et al			
	5,222,976	06-1993	Yoon			
	5,236,440	08-1993	Hlavacek			
	5,242,456	09-1993	Nash et al			
	5,246,443	09-1993	Mai			
	5,258,011	11-1993	Drews			
	5,269,783	12-1993	Sander			
	5,290,289	03-1994	Sanders et al			
	5,304,204	04-1994	Bregen			
	5,312,436	05-1994	Coffey et al			
	5,330,503	07-1994	Yoon			
	5,336,239	08-1994	Gimpelson			

EXAMINER**Date Considered**

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	Atty. Docket No.: P-21544.02	Serial No.: 10/653,027
	Applicant(s): Laurent Schaller et al	
	Filing Date: 08-28-2003	Group: 3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date If Appropriate
		5,356,424	10-1994	Buzerak et al			
		5,374,268	12-1994	Sander			
		5,383,904	01-1995	Totakura et al			
		5,403,346	04-1995	Loeser			
		5,437,680	08-1995	Yoon			
		5,437,685	08-1995	Blasnik			
		5,439,479	08-1995	Shichman et al			
		5,445,167	08-1995	Yoon et al			
		5,450,860	09-1995	O'Connor			
		5,452,733	09-1995	Sterman et al			
		5,456,246	10-1995	Schmieding et al			
		5,462,561	10-1995	Voda			
		5,474,557	12-1995	Mai			
		5,480,405	01-1996	Yoon			
		5,486,197	01-1996	Le et al			
		5,499,990	03-1996	Schulken et al			
		5,500,000	03-1996	Feagin et al			
		5,527,342	06-1996	Pietrzak et al			
		5,549,619	08-1996	Peters et al			
		5,569,274	10-1996	Rapacki et al			
		5,569,301	10-1996	Granger et al			
		5,582,616	12-1996	Bolduc et al			
		5,582,619	12-1996	Ken			
		5,586,983	12-1996	Sanders et al			
		5,591,179	01-1997	Edelstein			
		5,593,414	01-1997	Shipp et al			
		5,593,424	01-1997	Northrup, III			
		5,609,608	03-1997	Benett et al			
		5,632,752	05-1997	Buelna			
		5,632,753	05-1997	Loeser			
		5,643,295	07-1997	Yoon			

EXAMINER	Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	Atty. Docket No.: P-21544.02	Serial No.: 10/653,027
	Applicant(s): Laurent Schaller et al	
	Filing Date: 08-28-2003	Group: 3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,645,568	07-1997	Chervitz et al			
	5,665,109	09-1997	Yoon			
	5,683,417	11-1997	Cooper			
	5,695,505	12-1997	Yoon			
	5,697,943	12-1997	Sauer et al			
	5,700,270	12-1997	Peyser et al			
	5,700,271	12-1997	Whitfield et al			
	5,707,380	01-1998	Hinchliffe et al			
	5,709,693	01-1998	Taylor			
	5,709,695	01-1998	Northrup, III			
	5,725,539	03-1998	Matern			
	5,725,542	03-1998	Yoon			
	5,728,135	03-1998	Bregen et al			
	5,735,290	04-1998	Sterman et al			
	5,799,661	09-1998	Boyd et al			
	5,810,851	09-1998	Yoon			
	5,810,882	09-1998	Bolduc et al			
	5,820,631	10-1998	Nobles			
	5,824,008	10-1998	Bolduc et al			
	5,830,221	11-1998	Stein et al			
	5,849,019	12-1998	Yoon			
	5,879,371	03-1999	Gardiner et al			
	5,891,130	04-1999	Palermo et al			
	5,891,160	04-1999	Williamson, IV et al			
	5,895,394	04-1999	Kienzle et al			
	5,961,481	10-1999	Sterman et al			
	5,961,539	10-1999	Northrup, III et al			
	5,964,772	10-1999	Bolduc et al			
	5,972,024	10-1999	Northrup, III et al			
	5,976,159	11-1999	Bolduc et al			
	5,984,917	11-1999	Fleischman et al			

EXAMINER**Date Considered**

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	Atty. Docket No.: P-21544.02	Serial No.: 10/653,027
	Applicant(s): Laurent Schaller et al	
	Filing Date: 08-28-2003	Group: 3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,989,242	11-1999	Saadat et al			
	5,989,268	11-1999	Pugsley, Jr. et al			
	5,997,556	12-1999	Tanner			
	6,001,110	12-1999	Adams			
	6,013,084	01-2000	Ken et al			
	6,132,438	10-2000	Fleischman et al			
	6,139,540	10-2000	Rost et al			
	6,143,004	11-2000	Davis et al			
	6,176,413	01-2001	Heck et al			
	6,190,373	02-2001	Palermo et al			
	6,193,733	02-2001	Adams			
	6,193,734	02-2001	Bolduc et al			
	6,254,615	07-2001	Bolduc et al			
	6,296,656	10-2001	Bolduc et al			
	6,346,112	02-2002	Adams			
	2001-0018592-A1		Schaller			
	6,945,980		Nguyen			
	2003-0078603 A1	4-24-03	Schaller			
	6,641,593		Schaller			
	2003-0125755 A1	7-03-03	Schaller			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	32 03 410	05-1981	DE				
	32 27 984	02-1984	DE				
	41 33 800	01-1993	DE				
	44 02 058	04-1995	DE				
	195 47 617	09-1997	DE				
	0 121 362	10-1984	EP				
	0140557	05-1985	EP				

EXAMINER**Date Considered**

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		Atty. Docket No.: P-21544.02			Serial No.: 10/653,027		
		Applicant(s): Laurent Schaller et al					
		Filing Date: 08-28-2003			Group: 3731		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translation
							Yes No
		0 326 426	08-1989	EP			
		0 419 597	04-1991	EP			
		0 432 692	06-1991	EP			
		0 478 949	04-1992	EP			
		0 494 636	07-1992	EP			
		0 559 429	09-1993	EP			
		0 641 546	03-1995	EP			
		0 711 532	05-1996	EP			
		0 734 697	10-1996	EP			
		0 537 955	12-1996	EP			
		0 778 005	06-1997	EP			
		0 815 795	01-1998	EP			
		2 223 410	04-1990	GB			
		10-337291	12-1998	JP			
		2110222	05-1998	RU			
		1186199	10-1985	SU			
		1456109	02-1989	SU			
		1560133	04-1990	SU			
		90/06725	06-1990	WO			
		90/09149	08-1990	WO			
		90/14795	12-1990	WO			
		91/07916	06-1991	WO			
		91/17712	11-1991	WO			
		92/05828	04-1992	WO			
		94/15535	07-1994	WO			
		94/15537	07-1994	WO			
		96/00035	01-1996	WO			
		96/06565	03-1996	WO			
		96/38090	12-1996	WO			
		97/28744	08-1997	WO			
		97/32526	09-1997	WO			
		97/42881	11-1997	WO			
EXAMINER				Date Considered			
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

[illegible][illegible]

***Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.**